
Alabama Department of Environmental Management
1400 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama

Newsletter

Coliseum Boulevard Plume
January 12, 2001

Site History

The Coliseum Boulevard Plume was first discovered in September of 1999 during routine testing associated with construction. Environmental testing has been ongoing since that time. During the last year and a half, ADEM has worked closely with the Ala. Dept. of Public Health to ensure that community health issues were addressed. In September 2000, ADEM submitted its Preliminary Assessment report concerning the site to EPA Region 4.

During November 2000, several community meetings were held to inform the public about the Coliseum Boulevard site. Since that time, ADEM has worked closely with ALDOT to develop a suitable plan to eliminate contamination in the ditch and provide for cleanup of the groundwater. During December, ADEM conducted additional testing of several public wells as part of its testing efforts. Testing of the site will continue to be conducted by ADEM and ALDOT.

On January 5, 2001, ALDOT submitted a plan for review that provides for prompt fencing of the ditch as well as elimination of contamination. Testing and fence construction is scheduled to begin the week of January 15th. ADEM has kept the US EPA informed concerning project progress and recently met with EPA and ALDOT to review the status of the site.

ADEM is currently leading an effort to provide information concerning the plume to the communities in this area. This newsletter is being delivered door-to-door because we know some residents have not included their names on our mailing list and cannot be reached by mail. **This is the last newsletter we will hand deliver. If you wish to continue to receive information, please fill out the form on this sheet to be reached by mail.**

Information will also be available to the general

public during normal business hours at the Coliseum Branch of the Public Library.

Recent Testing

On December 21, 2000, ADEM collected groundwater samples from five of the Montgomery Water Works and Sewer Board's public drinking water wells closest to the site. The samples were collected to ensure that no contaminants from the Coliseum Boulevard site had migrated to the wells. Sample results indicate that TCE was not present in any of the wells. These samples were collected in addition to routine samples that are collected by the Montgomery Water Works and Sewer Board which yielded similar results. Montgomery's public water supply meets EPA standards.

Future Testing

On January 17, 2001, ADEM personnel continue surface water sample collection from the ditches, creeks and wetlands in the vicinity of the site. Surface water and sediment samples will also be collected from the pond located behind the Montgomery Zoo. Upon completion of the surface water sampling, ADEM will collect soil and groundwater samples in the areas of known or suspected TCE use. ADEM is preparing a more detailed report for submittal to the US EPA at the end of 2001.

For information concerning the Coliseum Boulevard Plume, you can call the ALDOT toll free number at 1-800-819-2553, or the ADEM Ombudsman's number at 394-4380.

Mail To: ADEM
P. O. Box 301463
Montgomery, AL 36130-1463
Attn: Jymalyn E. Redmond

**FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

CLEAN UP "FAST TRACKED"

Governor Don Siegelman and Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) Director, Mack Roberts, announced that ALDOT will immediately begin an expedited response to limit access, investigate, and implement a clean up to ensure public safety and to prevent further delays in the elimination of the Trichloroethylene (TCE)-contaminated surface water near Montgomery's Vista View neighborhood. The Governor directed ALDOT to immediately take action to protect the public and to take all steps necessary to investigate and remedy the problem.

ALDOT has been gathering data about TCE contamination in the groundwater beneath Vista View, Eastern Meadows and Chisholm. TCE, a common solvent, was also found in low concentrations in a concrete-lined open drainage ditch off Coliseum Boulevard. Dr. Neil Sass, Alabama State Toxicologist, has indicated that the levels found in the ditch to date were well within levels considered safe by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Agency but that the erection of some sort of barrier to prevent access to the ditch was prudent. Both ALDOT and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) have been involved in seeking a means to deal with this situation in a way that would work to address the concerns of both the nearby residents and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ADEM has approved plans to install a temporary barrier to restrict public access until additional investigation is completed so that a multi-phased clean up plan may be implemented to provide both short term protection to the area residents and long term restoration of Alabama's environment. In the next few weeks an eight-foot fence will be installed along the affected portions of the ditch.

In addition to the temporarily fencing the ditch, ALDOT is submitting to ADEM a response plan that details a comprehensive work plan that focuses first on the expedited elimination of TCE contaminated groundwater from entering the ditch. Continuing investigation of soil, surface water and

ground water will occur concurrently with the installation of the temporary fence. The analytical information obtained from these investigations along with the data currently available will lead to the implementation of an appropriate remediation plan utilizing the most effective remediation technologies to permanently deal with the remaining TCE contamination in the area. One of



Geoprobe

the technologies that will be utilized to investigate both subsurface soil and groundwater will be the Geoprobe.

The Geoprobe is a compact drilling rig using a direct push technology. Geoprobe is used to collect soil samples and groundwater samples that would permit the physical characterization of the shallow subsurface in the ditch area.

ALDOT will continue to work with the ADEM and other appropriate agencies and will continue to keep the public and community involved in the process. ALDOT will also continue to keep the public and community informed about developments and the results of the additional investigations.

In addition, ALDOT has a 24-hour automated information line for the public to call to obtain information and updates on ALDOT's work. The public may call 1-800-819-2553.

Do you want to be kept aware of further developments about the Coliseum Boulevard Plume site.
YES _____ NO _____

If yes, please fill out the information below and mail to the address on the reverse side, or drop this slip off at the ADEM offices at 1400 Coliseum Boulevard. There will be a box located at the reception desk.

_____- Name
_____- Address
_____- Phone Number



Coliseum Boulevard Plume

Environmental Health Newsletter - Vol. 1, January 2001
Alabama Department of Public Health

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct public health activities at hazardous waste sites in Alabama. ATSDR was created as a non-regulatory federal public health agency by Superfund law in 1980. ATSDR is responsible for preventing or reducing the harmful effects of exposure to hazardous substances on human health and the quality of life. ADPH, under the cooperative agreement, conducts public health activities such as public health assessments, health consultations, health studies, community involvement, and health education.

Alabama Department of Public Health Activities

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has worked on the Coliseum Blvd. Plume (CBP) site since 1999. ADPH has conducted the following actions:

- reviewed soil and water sampling data.
- given a toxicological evaluation of TCE levels.
- commented on sampling plans as requested.
- developed print material to give the public information.
- took part in public meetings.
- answered phone calls from the public.
- collected public concerns.
- forwarded concerns to other agencies for follow-up as needed.
- began a **health consultation** on TCE levels in the ditch east of Coliseum Boulevard.

Health Consultations

A **health consultation** (HC) gives public health advice for real or possible public exposure to hazardous substances. For an HC, ADPH evaluates information available about substances at the site.

- the media (air, soil, water, food) that may be contaminated.
- the levels, or concentrations, of substances detected in media.
- whether the concentrations are above health risk levels.

ADPH reviews information about the public.

- reports about public contact with contaminated media.
- health concerns and how people believe the site affects their health.
- community disease rates compared with national or state rates, if necessary.

ADPH studies whether the public might be exposed to the substance.

- whether people go to the contaminated area, and how often.
- what people do in the contaminated area.
- how the substance might enter the body (breathing air, drinking or touching water, eating or touching soil, eating food) from the activity.
- how much of the substance might get into the body—the **dose**.

ADPH researches the health effects of the substance for the site.

- whether people exposed to the levels at the site might suffer harm—the **toxicity**.
- whether working or living nearby might affect public health.
- other dangers—physical hazards such as unsafe buildings or open pits.

ADPH writes a report of the HC with a conclusion that describes any public health hazard it finds. ADPH also recommends actions to protect public health. Recommendations may include but are not limited to:

- sampling for further health evaluations, if necessary.

For more information

If you would like more information about public health activities, contact:

Alabama Department of
Public Health
Epidemiology, Suite 1450
P.O. Box 303017
Montgomery, AL 36130-3017
Phone: 334-206-5973
800-201-8208
Fax: 334-206-2012

Thank You

We appreciate the people who have already helped at the site. Thank you for helping to notify the public, for setting up and taking part in the November meetings, for telling us what you know about possible exposure to TCE, and for talking with us about your health concerns.

Cheryl Browder
Public Health Educator

Neil Sass
State Toxicologist

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Health Consultations, continued

- preventing future exposure and physical danger—for example, a fence to keep people away from contamination.
- environmental health education for residents so they can avoid exposure and for doctors to help them diagnose and treat patients.
- additional health or environmental actions.

An HC is not the same as a medical examination or a health study. ADPH advises people to use their own doctors to diagnosis and treat health problems. However, ADPH can give doctors environmental health information and resources.

The first HC is on TCE in the ditch east of Coliseum Boulevard.

We will conduct more HCs to evaluate health concerns as the environmental investigation continues.

Public Activities

ADPH must make good public health decisions and carry out activities. In the same way, people who live or work nearby must make good personal and community decisions and carry out activities.

That is the reason we told local people about what is being done and asked them to take part. The public does not direct public health activities. Instead, they work on community interests and needs.

How can the public take part?

Tell ADPH your health concerns if you have not already done so.

Tell ADPH how the site and the work affect the community.

Give ADPH your doctor's name and address if he or she is concerned about exposure and your health.

Help neighbors with special needs to take part.

Read and comment on draft health consultations.

Give ADPH or ADEM your name and address if you have not already done so.

Review site material at the Coliseum Branch of the Public Library for more information.